

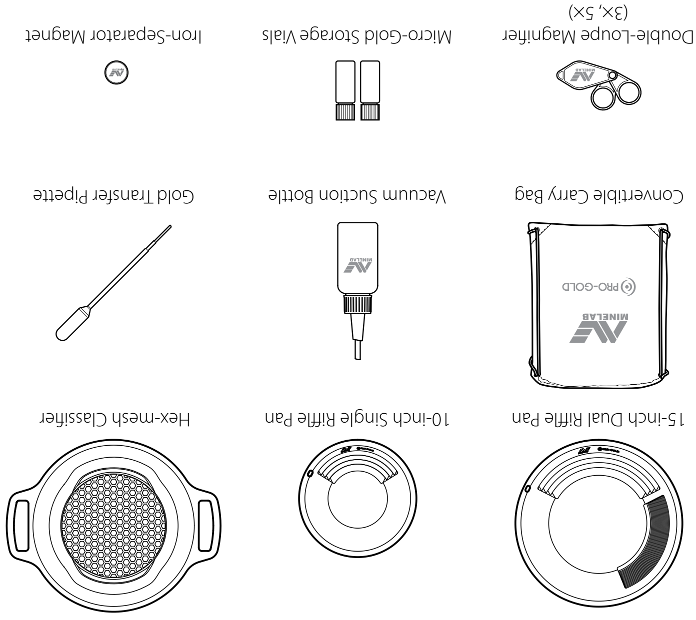
We Change People's Fortunes

MINELAB
www.minelab.com

PRO-GOLD Premium Panning Kit

Getting Started Guide

PRO-GOLD gold panning kit contents



Australia, Asia & Oceania
+ 61 8 8238 0888
minelab@minelab.com.au

North, South & Central America
+1 630 401 8150
info@minelabamericas.com

Europe
+353 21 423 2352
minelab@minelab.ie

Middle East & Africa
+971 4 254 9995
minelab@minelab.ae

WARRANTY TERMS – This product has a 6 month limited warranty from the time of purchase. Please refer to www.minelab.com for further warranty information.

Register your product warranty online at **register.minelab.com**

4901-0210-3-EN

Discover gold the easy way with the Minelab PRO-GOLD range of high quality pans and accessories. This premium panning kit has everything you need to get started, so you'll become an expert in no time. Prospecting for gold has never been so much fun!

Where to pan for gold

Many countries are rich in alluvial gold, deposited by running water. If you take the time to research an area and find the right location, you will likely have more success.

Look for your panning material in rock crevices, and around the bases of rocks and boulders where gold is likely to have become trapped.

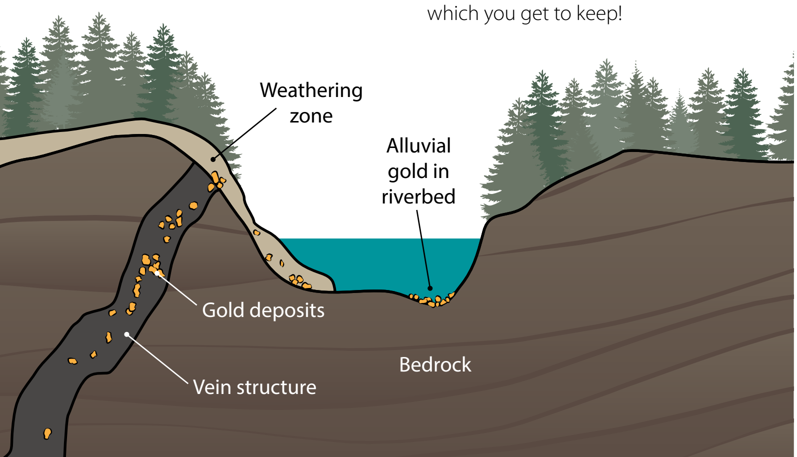
The key is to dig down as much as possible for your material, since water action has already started the process of moving the gold particles downward through the soil.

Gold panning principles

Gold is one of the heaviest elements and therefore can be recovered using just gravity and a gold pan!

Material containing rocks, sand, iron and gold particles is agitated to separate the heavy elements (e.g. gold and iron) from the lighter material (e.g. light sand, dirt, and rock).

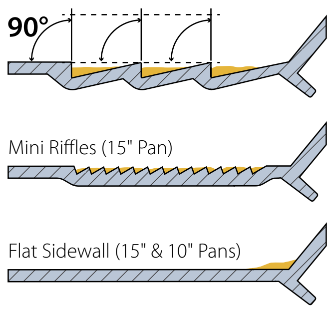
During the panning process, the gold essentially 'falls' to the bottom of the pan. By taking your time to agitate the material in your pan as much as possible, you can be guaranteed to separate just about all of the gold, which you get to keep!



What are riffles?

Riffles are the graduated grooves in the side of the gold pan that capture gold as water containing sand and sediment flows across them.

The 15-inch PRO-GOLD pan has both coarse and fine riffles. Generally, coarse riffles are for separating larger material, and fine riffles are for separating very small particles.



Types of gold panning

There a two main techniques – wet panning and dry panning. Wet panning requires less skill to master because it creates a liquid suspension of the panning material. This aids the action of gravity, allowing the heavier gold to rapidly collect in the riffles.

You can wet pan in any water that is deep enough to submerge your pan and move it around.

What is black sand?

Black sand is made up of alluvial sand consisting predominantly of grains of heavy dark minerals or rocks, and is commonly found with placer (or alluvial) gold.

Black sand containing iron particles is magnetic and a good indicator of possible gold deposits nearby.

Practice!

If you want to have a go at practicing your panning technique before you go out looking for gold, you can!

Get yourself some small gold nuggets (or small lead pieces) and mix them into some gravel and dirt. Panning for known samples is an excellent way to understand what is happening to your material as you work it, and you will have greater confidence and success when you get out in the field!

Code of Ethics

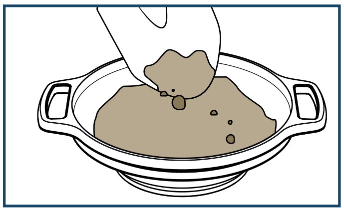
- Observe all laws, whether national, state or local.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Always obtain permission where required before panning an area.
- Never destroy historical or archaeological sites.
- Always fill in your holes after digging.
- Leave the land and vegetation as you found it.

Get started gold panning in 8 easy steps

This guide will assist you with your gold panning adventures by showing you the basics. The popular wet panning technique is described here, and is an ideal method for beginners. Remember, patience is the key, so take your time, enjoy the outdoors and have fun!

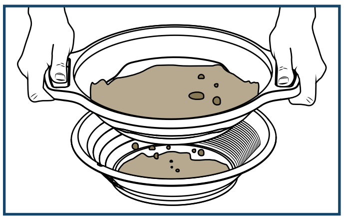
1. Fill the classifier

Place the classifier over the top of the gold pan (15" pan shown), then tip your collected material into it.



2. Classify your panning material

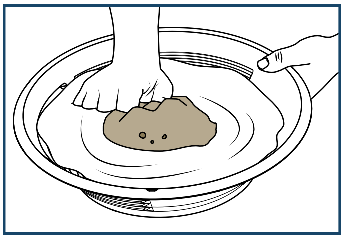
Shake the classifier from side to side to sift your panning material into the pan. Before discarding remaining material, check it for gold nuggets.



Classify the material underwater to ensure large rocks are completely cleaned of soil and gold. Do not overfill the pan; ½ to ¾ full is sufficient.

3. Fill your pan with water

Completely cover the material in your pan with water and mix with your hands until it is completely saturated.

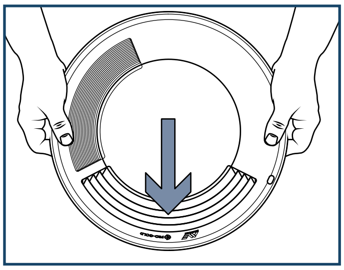


Break apart any solid clumps of dirt with your hands so the material is well separated before you start panning.

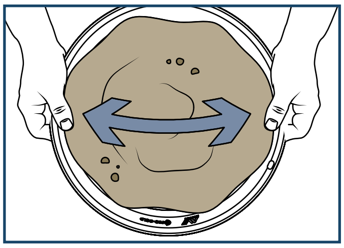


4. Agitate the material

Select the appropriate panning zone and face this zone away from you.



Agitate the contents of the pan by jiggling the pan from side to side, making sure the material doesn't slop out. Do not use a circular swirling motion.

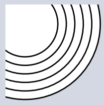


The longer you agitate the material, the better chance you have of moving all of the gold through the liquid suspension to the bottom of the pan, so be patient with this step.

Which panning zone to use?

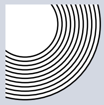
You will separate the most gold out of your panning material if you work your way through the three different panning zones on the15-inch PRO-GOLD pan. Here are the three panning zones and the type of panning material they are ideal for:

Stage 1: Large 90° Riffles



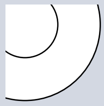
Begin panning coarse material containing large stones, pebbles, soil, fine sediment, sands, and gold.

Stage 2: Mini Riffles



Continue on finer panned concentrate consisting mainly of tiny pebbles, sediment, sand, and gold.

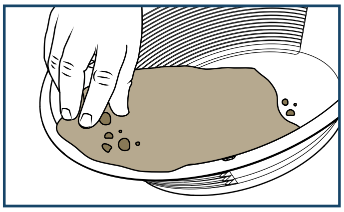
Stage 3: Flat Sidewall



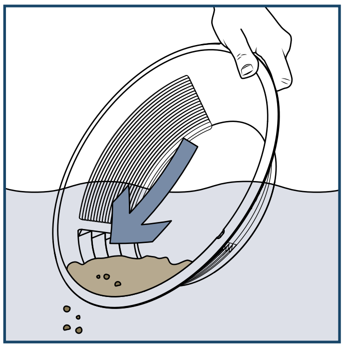
Finish on sandy concentrate containing silt, black sand, and gold.

5. Remove unwanted materials

Pick off the larger stones and gravel as you go, checking for gold before discarding.

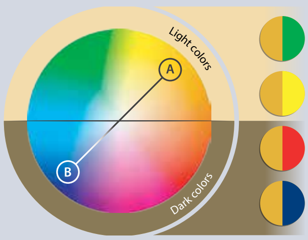


As the material in the pan becomes finer, swish the pan gently through the water and slightly tilt the pan to help the water carry the top layers of silt and sand away.



Repeat steps 3 to 5, progressing through the panning zones until the material has reduced significantly, leaving behind a concentrate of fine silt, tiny pebbles, black sand and gold.

Why are PRO-GOLD pans blue?



Adjacent colors on the color wheel have low contrast, and opposite colors (e.g. A and B) have high contrast.

This is why a blue pan will help you to see gold more easily than other colors (e.g. red, green, yellow).

Black may seem like a good choice, but it will camouflage the black sand that is commonly found with alluvial gold.

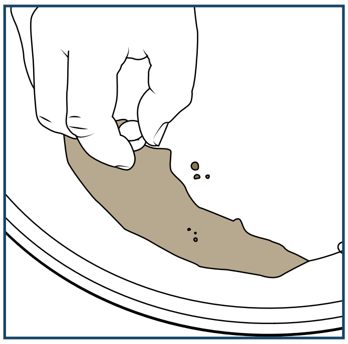
6. Separate black sand

Remove any black sand from the remaining material using the iron-separator magnet.

Not all black sand is magnetic, so some may remain.

Examine the black sand for any gold before discarding.

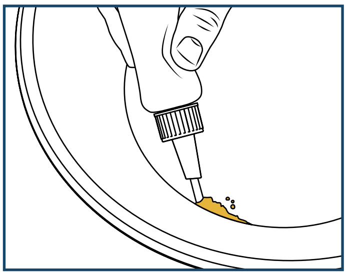
The vacuum suction bottle can be used to gently squirt water over the concentrate to 'blow' off fine sand. Small pebbles should be picked out by hand and discarded.



Seal the iron separator magnet in a small plastic bag before you pick up the black sand. When you remove the magnet, you simply need to rinse the bag to discard the unwanted sand.

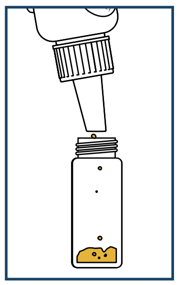
7. Collect the gold

Once the gold starts to show in your pan, use the pipette or the vacuum suction bottle to suck up the tiny pieces of gold. You will need to have water in your pan to do this.



8. Transfer the gold to the vials

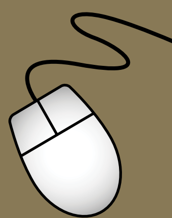
Carefully transfer the gold into the storage vials and screw the caps on tightly.



You can examine your gold using the double-loupe magnifier provided.

Where to find more information

There are many online resources that will help you to improve your panning technique for even greater gold success!



Visit Minelab's YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/user/MinelabDetecting** to watch gold panning videos and more.

You can download these instructions in the following languages at **www.minelab.com**:

English | Español | Português | русский